National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) and M/s United Phosphorous Ltd. (a private company) as its primary members. Other banks, Financial institutions, Statutory and Autonomous Organizations, dealing in agriculture and agro industries, private companies and co-operatives, exporters, NGO/farmers organizations working in rural areas, and beneficiaries, including individual farmers can also become members of this society at the national level. State level counterpart Societies have been registered by 13 States so far to take advantage of the Schemetic Pattern of Assistance of the (Central) SFAC in its functions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives for cashew growers

2779. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cashew farmers are facing falling prices of their produce and extreme-competitive atmosphere caused by the WTO regime;

(b) if so, what step Government propose to take to save the cashew farmers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand for originally produced cashew from western countries; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to give special packages for Karnataka cashew growers; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The price of raw cashew-nut is influenced by the international price of cashew kernel. Though there has been some decrease in the

international price of cashew kernel during 2001-02, the Indian price of raw cashew-nut during the period has been higher than the prevailing rates during 1997-98 and 1998-99. Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through work plans assistance is being provided to the farmers for various activities for improving productivity of cashew-nut including assistance to cashew growers for processing and marketing of cashew, particularly in non-traditional areas.

(c) and (d) there has been no indication on the increased requirement of originally produced cashew from the western countries. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed guidelines for organic cultivation of cashew for facilitating the State Governments, including Karnataka to adopt the same. Moreover, under the Macro Management Scheme, the State Governments have been given the flexibility to include programmes as per their felt needs and requirement.

Agriculture extension services in Rajasthan

2780. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the network of agriculture extension services in Rajasthan is inadequate and farmers in that State are not getting the latest scientific knowledge and technology in Agriculture; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Agricultural extension is state subject. However, the Government of India supports the State in strengthening and augmenting its extension services. The programmes and schemes through which the State extension services are supported include the following:

(i) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 31 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), remandated